

# Answers

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## RESEARCH .....

### Article: Katherine Boo

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Your misery is another person's wealth. Stories of poverty and immense suffering abound, and many authors have earned millions from their documentation of entire communities' difficulties in everyday lives. While these accounts share important information about people who need help, there is also the uncomfortable truth that those who venture into these societies stand to gain wealth – for themselves.

1. Why does the author say the story is 'improbable'?
  - The writer is a successful writer who voluntarily goes into a community that is deeply poor and keenly suffering.
2. What drew Boo to the slums?
  - Her experiences with the Indian community inspired her to ask probing questions about the social immobility that poor societies face.
3. What has Boo achieved with her book?
  - She has highlighted the difficulties that these communities face and showed that suffering is not the entire experience of these societies.

**COMPREHENSION**.....

**Article: Everyday Armageddon**

Pages 28 to 33

1. What are the two governors' argument in paragraph 4? [2]

Lifted

Electric power may not be fully restored until Thanksgiving – in part because over the past two decades as the nation's population grew by a fourth, the number of utility workers *fell* by a fourth.

Paraphrased

The extensive damage to access to electricity [1] is partially caused by the lack of proportional labour as the population grew [1].

2. What is the potential political gain shown in paragraph 6? [4]

Lifted

With voters desperate for a faster economic recovery,  
  
tired of do-nothing partisan gridlock,  
  
eager to see problems solved,  
  
producing even modest but demonstrable success in restoring the public furniture could propel either governor to his party's nomination in 2016.

Paraphrased

The electorate is so bent on having speedy economic recovery [1], and so jaded with fruitless political impasse [1] that any discernible result [1] from either governor could mean substantial votes [1].

3. What is the author's argument in paragraph 8? [4]

Lifted

America spends just 2.4 percent of its economy on infrastructure, compared with 5 percent in Europe.

In Germany, the roads are smooth. In France, city halls do not have buckets to catch water from leaky roofs. In Italy, the trains actually run on time and serve surprisingly good meals in the dining car.

Paraphrased

America spends a mere half of what other countries do on infrastructural support [1], and because of this discrepancy, American does not have the efficiency or effectiveness of transport networks [1], nor is she able to ensure that buildings of public significance are well maintained [1], or that citizens may enjoy good journeys [1].

**VOCABULARY**.....

**Article: Bite Me**

Page 12

Give the meaning of the following words as they are used in the passage. Write your answers in one word or a short phrase.

No.	Paragraph	Word	Meaning
1	1	new	fresh/refreshing
2	2	adopted	took on/took ownership of
3	3	approved	allowed/supported
4	3	hurried	went quickly/approached with speed
5	4	tactic	strategy/technique
6	4	avoid	veer away from/stay away from
7	4	inviting	asking/welcoming
8	5	forever	eternally/indefinitely
9	5	used	utilised/employed
10	5	faster	quicker/with greater speed

1. new: The new class that just begun in school seems really interesting!
2. adopted: This child was adopted just last month, but she is as happy as a lark in the family now.
3. approved: The document has been approved since two weeks ago.
4. hurried: Mr Tan hurried to his destination in the pouring rain.
5. tactic: The military tactic has certainly failed if the citizens are suffering.
6. avoid: Jane can only avoid John for so long before they have to discuss their project.
7. inviting: Don't pretend to be inviting if you just want to spend the day alone.
8. forever: Do you believe that a person can actually be in love with a spouse forever?
9. used: This used tissue on the ground is disgusting, it is crawling with ants!
10. faster: You have to learn faster than this to win the championship.

**GRAMMAR**.....

**Article: The Science of Heaven**

Pages 16 to 18

*Subject-Verb Agreement*

Identify the correct verbs.

1. The dog (**barks**/barked/bark) at the children everyday.
2. These toys on your desk are (clogged/**clogging**/cloggers) up all the free space.
3. The team (cheered/cheer/**cheers**) as the results are announced.
4. Coffee (**refreshes**/refreshing/refresher) my mind.
5. Doctors rarely (**complain**/complaining/complained) about having a healthy stream of patients.

Explain the main idea of these paragraphs using the relevant verbs.

Paragraph 3: react

There have been many people who **react** vastly differently to Dr Alexander's argument for the existence of heaven.

Paragraph 6: transitioning

As patients are **transitioning** between mental states in their process of recovery, they may feel deeply disoriented